

## THE DAILY NEWS.

## CAROL.

Old Time and I, the other night,  
Had a carousal together,  
The wine was golden, warm and bright,  
And I just like summer weather.

Quoth I, "How Christmas comes again,  
And no farthing richer!"  
Time answered, "Ah, the old, old strain!  
I prize thee as the pitcher."

"Why mope about your goods in gold?  
No more of said is wanted."  
"Is hard to get—'tis hard to hold;  
Come, lad, fill up your beaker."

"Hast thou not found true friends more true,  
And loving ones more loving?"  
I could but say, "A few—a few!"  
"So keep the liquor moving."

"Hast thou not seen the prospectors leave  
Come down a precious chamber?"  
His chest disclosed, "I have—I have!"  
"Well, surely that's a bumper!"

"Nay, hold awhile—I've seen the gold,  
Find all their hopes grow dimmer."  
"They will hope on, and strive, and trust,  
And conquer at the brimmer."

"'Tis not because to-day is dark,  
No brighter day for dawn's on!"  
"Thee's rent for every storm-tossed ark."  
"So be it. Pass the jorum."

"Yet, I must own, I should not mind  
To be a little richer."  
"Labor and wait, and you may find  
Hullo! in empty pitcher."

## THE CONDITION OF THE SOUTH.

[From the New Orleans Price Current.]

Any one who will take the trouble to examine closely into the condition of affairs in the South at the present time, as compared with the state of things attendant on the immediate close of the war, cannot fail to admit that great and unexpected improvement has characterized every branch of trade, commerce and agriculture, an improvement calculated to give the liveliest interest to all who desire the welfare and prosperity of the South, and to inspire the hope that at no distant day the agriculture and commerce will attain to their former commanding position.

The close of the war left business almost suspended, plantations destitute of stock and many of the implements of husbandry and labor, as if then seemed, helplessly demoralized. A large proportion of the most useful citizens had been killed or permanently disabled, and some of those so fortunate as to return were effected, more or less, by the demoralization consequent on so many years of camp life.

Half the population were in mourning, and some of the bravest hearts discouraged and despondent, saw nothing but gloom and disaster and ruin. But as little by little our people have turned from the memories of the past to the necessities of the present, and attempted to adapt themselves as nearly as possible to the new condition of things, new possibilities have presented themselves, and new plans have been adopted, with a measure of success which promises well for the future.

It seemed improbable at the close of the war that the negro could ever be taught or compelled to labor in a condition of freedom. The daily experience of our planters is now demonstrating the fact that to hire a negro at reasonable wages, paying monthly or yearly, is actually cheaper for the planter in the long run, than to run the risk of his cost when owned, and to assume the responsibility of his clothing and doctor bills and his support when disabled by disease or by age. All our planters now ask, is to be left to make their own bargains with the negro, and whenever this is done his labor will prove profitable to both employer and employed. Another encouraging fact is that a large proportion of those plantations formerly doing their year's work on advances from merchants, are sending this year's products to market without having had such assistance, and consequently with no claims due from them, except those of the laborer. Many plantations are embarrassed with debts and mortgages; but a few years of plenty cannot fail to raise these embarrassments, and put all on a footing to make another start on a surer track for the acquisition of wealth.

Business, agricultural and commercial, is being carried on on a firmer basis; more cash payments are being made and less credit being given or being asked than formerly. Are not all these improvements, after so great a carnage, these renovations, after such terrible destruction, this dawn of prosperity rising from the night of ruin and disaster, a cause of congratulation to the Southern people, and a promise of renewed success and recurring triumphs in the future? We think so, and we have cause to value them, outside of their promise of actual profit.

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A FUNNY INCIDENT happened in a church in Kingston, N. Y., a few Sundays ago. Owing to the absence of the minister a lay brother, of the congregation, was invited to read a sermon at the morning service, which he did very acceptably to those present. In the afternoon a clergyman from a neighboring place occupied the pulpit, and delivered a sermon. Oddly enough, it happened to be the identical sermon which the lay member had read in the morning. The congregation was thus enabled to compare two different styles of delivery.

## Commercial.

**Exports.**  
ALTIMORE—Per steamer Falcon—102 tierces Rice, 700 bales Upland Cotton, 47 bales Yarn, 20 bales Bags, 245 bales Flour, 12 bales Hides, 20 pigs Sundry, 20,000 feet Lumber.  
GEORGETOWN, S. C.—Per steamer June—102 tons Guano.

**The Charleston Cotton and Rice Market.**  
OFFICE OF THE CHARLESTON DAILY NEWS,  
CHARLESTON, Monday Evening, Dec. 29, '68.  
COTTON—Selling at holding firm and steady. Most purchasers must at full rates. The following are the quotations of the two leading grades by:

**LIVERPOOL CLASSIFICATION:**  
Ordinary to good ordinary.....22 @ 23  
Low middling.....23 1/2 @ 24 1/2  
Middling.....24 1/2 @ 25 1/2  
Strict middling.....25 1/2 @ 26 1/2

The following are the quotations of the two leading grades by:

**NEW YORK CLASSIFICATION:**  
Low middling.....24 @ 25  
Middling.....25 @ 26  
RICE—This article was in fair request at firm prices. Sales 80 tierces of clean Carolina, at 60 tierces at 8 1/2c, and 20 at 8 1/2c. We quote common to choice Carolina at 7 1/2c @ 8c. Good 8 1/2c @ 9c.

**Markets by Telegraph.**

**FOREIGN MARKETS.**  
LONDON, December 28.—Cottons—Cottons 9 1/2c. Stocks quiet.

**LIVERPOOL, December 28.**—Cotton quiet; sales 12,000 bales. Red Water at 10 1/2c. Flour 26s 2d @ 26 1/2c. Corn 3s 6d.

**DOMESTIC MARKETS.**

**NEW YORK, December 28.**—Money active at 7. Sterling 9 1/2c. Gold 34 1/2c. Governments firm and advancing. '62's, 10 1/2c. Cotton quiet and steady at 23 1/2c @ 24 1/2c.

**Baltimore, December 28.**—Flour and wheat extremely dull. Corn firm—wheat 85 1/2c; yellow 87 1/2c. Provisions unchanged.

**Louisville, December 28.**—Superfine flour 55c. Corn 65c. Flour 52c. Lard 10c. Bacon—cured sides 17 1/2c, packed. Bad whiskey, 31c.

**Wilmington, December 28.**—Spirits—turpentine 42c. Rosin—strained and No. 2 81c. Turpentine 82 1/2c. Tur. 82c. Cotton 23c. Provisions black.

**August 28.**—Cotton market active, prices firmer; sales 1034 bales; receipts 1437; middling 23 1/2c @ 24 1/2c.

**SAVANNAH, December 28.**—Cotton firm and in good demand; middling 24 1/2c @ 25c; receipts for two days 3004; exports none.

**NEW ORLEANS, December 28.**—Cotton stiffer; middling 23 1/2c @ 24 1/2c; sales 9800 bales; receipts 7811; exports 4100. Gold 35 1/2c. Sterling 47c. Commercial 45 1/2c @ 46 1/2c. Sight exchange on New York 1/2c discount. Sugar active and firmer; common 24 1/2c @ 25c. Molasses active; yellow clarified 19 1/2c @ 20c. Molasses active and firm; common 6 1/2c @ 6 3/4c. Choice 68c @ 70c.

**MOBILE, December 28.**—Cotton firm at 23 1/2c; sales 2000 bales, including 600 add after close of market on Saturday. Receipts 1563; exports 1285.

**Easton & Co.'s Cotton Report.**

[FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 25, 1868.]  
NEW YORK, December 28.—THE MARKET.—In our last report, the market closed firm at 25 1/2c for middling uplands. On Saturday, with receipts turning out only 80,000 bales, and an advancing market state, active demand sprang up, and prices were 1/2c better; sales 5540 bales at 25 1/2c. Monday the market opened firm; but as the cable news disseminated, buyers held off, and a very small business was done. Sales 1545 bales at 25 1/2c. Tuesday there was more desire to sell and prices declined to 24 1/2c. Sales 1977 bales at 24 1/2c. Wednesday there was a cool, spinning demand, at steady prices for low grades and a fraction off for middling; sales 2627 bales at 25c. Thursday there was more demand for low middling and grades below, which improved; middling was quoted at 25c as before. Sales 2781 bales.

During the week our market advanced from 25 1/2c to 26c, and subsequently fell off to 25c, closing finally at that figure. The over grades have improved about 1/2c. Liverpool has advanced 1/2c, the closing quotation being the same as on Friday last, 10 1/2c, but the sales are 12,000 bales larger for the week than by the daily receipts. There have been received at the port, since last September, 651,668 bales, of which exporters have taken 479,934 bales, spinners 223,292 bales, and the stocks have been 290,212 bales. The market is now above the level less than was expected, owing to the fact that they are for six days at New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston, and other ports. The above table shows the full week. The excess in receipts, which on 12th December were 157,494 bales, is now reduced to 117,552 bales. The market is now above the level less than was expected, owing to the fact that they are for six days at New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston, and other ports. 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